

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee
Minutes for November 3, 2003

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Ron Sender, Scott Smith, Stephan Miller, Christopher Tonkin, and Ted Packard. Others present were Joey Gluskco, Claudia Thompson, Bobby Mac, Mat Mendel, Jeff Munro, Doug Greenfield, Betsy Kernan, and Gareth Williams.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM.

Introductions were made all around.

We started the meeting recalling recent conversations about bicycling.

*The minutes were accepted without correction.

Jack showed us the memo he sent on behalf of ABAC to the Chamber of Commerce in support of the bicycle-friendly design enhancements for Arlington Center.

Cable TV Program. We discussed the possibility of producing a cable TV program in bicycling. Jeff Munro from Comcast's Arlington Studio led us through the process of producing a public-access program. Comcast provides instruction and equipment. The programming is for Arlington with a possibility of wider distribution. A program on bicycling leaves a wide range of possibilities for subject matter. We should start with one program and a simple idea. We brainstormed topics. *A list of the results is appended to these minutes.*

Jeff told us that it is important to spread the word and find expertise within the community. Jack asked Jeff for guidance about which topics would be of interest. Jack suggested using the topic of the Bike Path as a teaser to introduce more broadening topics. We need to plan the first show on paper and some of us do a workshop.

Those interested in this project are Jack, Ted, Scott, in fact almost everyone in attendance. Ted suggested a blurb in the Advocate asking for volunteers. Jack will schedule a workshop before the holidays.

Upcoming events. We discussed the logistics of the Winter get together. Jack has asked Lauren Hefferon to give a slide show. Jack suggested February 5 as a possible date.

Alternative Transportation Fair. We discussed whether this event should be associated with the Tour of Arlington. The Tour could be planned in the morning with other tours or other events in the afternoon. Claudia suggested the Fair be

associated with Bike Week (third week in May). The Fair will possibly take place on the third Sunday.

Scott suggested other groups possibly interested such as TAC, Walking in Arlington and Sustainable Arlington. A possible venue might be the small park across from the DPW lot. Other possibilities are the Reservoir, one of the schools near the bike path, the Jefferson Cutter House and/or the Russell Commons parking lot. The Ice Rink could be used in case of rain. Joey will check for availability with the Rec Dept.

Planning Department updates. Where in town is bike parking needed? We will make a prioritized list of businesses in Town we can approach to put in bike racks. Joey mentioned that there is no rack in the Russell Common lot.

Bicycling advocacy updates. Jack attended the Interbike Trade Show. He gave us a summary of the event. Bike Belong is planning a multi-million dollar national ad campaign designed to increase bicycling activity; the campaign is funded through the bicycle industry.

Alewife Master Plan. Jack received a copy of the most recent plan for the improvements of the MDC Alewife Reservation. Jack will read and evaluate the plan and present it at the December meeting. The maps from the report will be put on the Minuteman and Community Path web sites.

Green Streets. Betsey Kernan made an appearance to tell us that some of the plants her group has planted along the Bike Path need to be fenced in. She will need help and support for this work.

The meeting adjourned at 9:21.

Ideas for a public access cable TV program:

- Recruit Bobby Mac as emcee.
- How to bicycle on Mass. Ave.
- Virtual tour up Mass Ave, highlighting hazards.
- What to carry on a bicycle ride.
- Lights at night.
- Basics on getting started in the spring.
- Interview with Gary Contic.
- Local bike celebrities (Rubel, Ciclismo, etc.).
- How to ride with kids (families).
- Riding on the bike path; off the bike path.
- Biking and fitness.

- Hill climbing in Arlington.
- Bikes as transportation. Ways to carry things on a bike.
- Bike parking.
- Good places/destinations to ride (Daisy's Market/Carlisle, Davis Sq, etc).
- Commercial for MassBike (Share the Roads).
- Bikeway cam.
- Interview w/Sonik the artist.
- Valet bike-parking at Redbones.
- Designing communities to encourage biking.
- Arlington Community Kids Triathlon.
- Somerville Community Bike Path & other connections (Bryce).
- Encourage biking for transportation.
- Bicycling for errands, shopping.
- BIKE Arlington Tour.
- Promote upcoming events.
- Bike maintenance basics: fix flats, lube chain, inflate tires (Quad Cycles).
- Wear helmet properly.
- How to buy a bike and helmet.
- Best and worst streets to ride on.
- Tricky intersections.
- How to ride down a hill.
- How to brake coming down a steep hill.
- Bicycle/Pedestrian rules of the road (and bikeway).
- Future bikeway connections.
- Local races (regional).
- Safe routes to school.
- Roadway maintenance.
- Places to ride to (off the Bikeway).
- Valet parking at Redbones.
- Commercial for Mass. Bike. Share the road.
- America Bikes.
- Bring your bike on the T.
- Green Streets bikeway clean ups.
- Lexington sewers and/or Rt. 2 bridge.
- Bicycle advocacy.
- IS TEA funding.
- Bike lanes: pro and con.
- New loop detectors sense bicycles.
- Physics of the bicycle.
- Interview with Sonic.
- Jingle Bell ride.